Petrol and LPG Distributors in Mandi District of H.P.

94. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of LPG distributorships and petrol pumps functioning in district Mandi of Himachal Pradesh, Tehsil-wise;

(b) the number of villages covered under this scheme in district Mandi;

(c) the Panchayat-wise and village-wise details thereof togetherwith the names of such distributorships and depots;

(d) whether Government proposes to open such distributorships in the remote villages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Presently there are 13 retail outlet dealerships and 6 LPG distributorships in Mandi District of Himachal Pradesh. 5 more LPG distributorships have been planned one each at Rewalsar, Gohar and Kotli and two at Ladbharol in District Mandi of Himachal Pradesh.

Petrol Pumps in Maharashtra

95. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of petrol pumps working in Maharashtra, district-wise;

(b) the category who have been allotted such petrol pumps during 1998-99 with their details; and

(c) whether any contemptible report has/had been received by Government from the dates of their dealerships, if so, the details thereof and the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) As on date there are 1680 retail outlets in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) During the year 1998-99, Oil Companies have allotted 6 retail outlet dealerships under Open category and one retail outlet under 'SC category under the normal selection procedure of advertisement of the locations and selection through OSB/DSB. Oil Companies have reported that they have not received any adverse report against these dealerships.

Adulteration in petrol

96. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what damage adulterated petrol does to moter-vehicles;

(b) whether Government have recently arrested five directors of company involved in petrol adulteration;

(c) if so, what action has been taken against them;

(d) whether these adulteration operations are limited only to Gujarat or extended to other parts of the country as well; and

(e) what steps have been taken to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Adulteration of petrol with other products having different characteristics not meeting the required specifications of petrol may lead to reduced engine life, environmental pollution etc. State Govt. of Gujarat has arrested five Directors of a company for allegedly diverting solvents for adulteration under Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Essential Services Act 1980. Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are